GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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AT THE WELL IN HAIFA, PALESTINE
(See Bulletin No. 4)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Kurds on Their Regular Warpath

THE REPUBLIC of Turkey is busily occupied suppressing a revolution within its boundaries. Kurdistan is in rebellion and Turkish forces have been sent to destroy villages where soldiers have been killed.

Since Kurdistan reaches into Iraq, the British protectorate, the Turkish problem is also a British problem. But the English are solving it in another way. Airplane squadrons followed raiding bands of tribesmen, dispersed them with bombs, and compelled them to abandon hordes of stock they were driving into the hills.

Assyrians Had Same Task

The Kurds live far from enervating lowlands, in the rugged hills about the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. They are an old people racially and live now much as they did in the days when Assyria and Babylon were in power. They were marauders then as they are under the proper conditions to-day, and over and over again the Assyrian and Babylonian armies took the field against them. But they merely retired to still higher lands until their enemies had gone and then took up their old ways.

It was the Kurds—then known as the Carduchi—who gave Xenophon's marchers their greatest trouble, rolling great stones down on them from the mountains.

Today the Kurds are still the unsubdued scourge of the people of the plains. They are distant cousins of Europeans and Americans, strong-featured Aryans, allied to the Persians and the Armenians. In addition to the plateau region near the source of the Tigris and Euphrates, their homeland includes the Zagros Mountains, which run southeastward from Lake Van to the Persian Gulf and form the boundary between Turkey and Persia.

Summer in Mountains, Winter in Valleys

Although most of the Kurds possess villages, composed of clusters of low, flat-roofed houses of stone or mud, all the tribes are more or less nomadic. The majority live in dark-brown, many-peaked tents of goats' hair during the summer, not wandering far from home, but merely going up into the high mountains, where it is too cold and snowy to dwell in winter.

A considerable number, however, live a purely nomadic life, wandering hundreds of miles along regular routes between the warm plains of Mesopotamia in winter and the cool, grassy uplands in summer. Among the pure nomads society is organized upon a half-patriarchal system in which one man rules over a number of wives and their children, while the semi-nomadic Kurds are either divided into tribes or clans, like those of medieval Scotland, or are ruled by feudal lords, whose power is often absolute.

Poverty is the rule among the Kurds; their mountain fastnesses are difficult of access, and they are strong and hardy by reason of their life of exertion. The people of the neighboring fertile lowlands, on the other hand, are relatively well-to do, and are also comparatively unprotected and averse to war. All these

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PREPARING COTTON FOR WEAVING, GINNING, BEATING AND SPINNING: ASIA MINOR

Cotton weaving is an ancient industry in the upper Tigris and Euphrates valleys. Summery muslin, so much used by American women, takes its name from Mosul, on the Tigris. Fine cotton cloth is still woven in the cool, damp cellars of this town (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Exploring the World We Live In

THE ROMANCE and adventure of geographic explorations are being emphasized by teachers who are making their geography teaching vital and fascinating. Some of the explorations of the National Geographic Society, which have added to our knowledge of the world we live in, and have benefited mankind, are described in the following bulletin:

IT WAS in 1890 that The Society sent out its first scientific expedition to explore the region of Mount St. Elias, Alaska. There it began the study of the glaciers which harrowed the earth after volcanoes had ploughed it.

These Alaskan explorers penetrated valleys which were veritable paradises of flowers, observed the Yakutat Indians, and noted mirages such as those which, in Alaska's far west last spring, helped wreck Major Martin's plane in America's world-girdling flight. They first studied and gave the name of "piedmont glaciers" to a type of ice bodies.

The scene of The Society's next investigations shifted from the frigid north to the saw-toothed mountain of balmy Martinique, which, in 1902, was a favorite winter tourist ground and which, a year later, wiped out practically all the 30,000 people of St. Pierre and destroyed seventeen ships anchored in the harbor.

As in the case of glaciers, the National Geographic Society gave an impetus to investigation of volcanoes—a virgin field.

Found Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes

The Society's volcanic studies reached their climax in the expeditions to Mount Katmai, Alaska, which made the most thorough survey ever attempted of an eruption's after effects. Later, through following a wisp of sky-hung smoke that could not be accounted for by known phenomena, the leader discovered and made known to science the now world-famous Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, one of our foremost natural wonders.

Another type of The Society's expeditions now is breathing life into early American history by its explorations in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. There resourceful explorers built a tiny railroad and put a small, puffing engine to work hauling away the débris from Pueblo Bonito—the "Beautiful Village" of pre-Columbian civilization. In that geographic haystack they are finding minute evidence of how those long-lost people worked and lived, played, warred, and worshiped their gods.

Aided Peary in Polar Achievement

The Society had an important part in attainment of the North Pole. Its participation in polar exploration culminated when Peary planted the Stars and Stripes at the earth's northern axis.

Captain Robert Bartlett, Peary's chief lieutenant, during the summer of 1924, was sent by The Society to study the currents, temperatures, and harbors

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factors combine to make the Kurds a race of plunderers. "No race," says the famous geographer Reclus, "neither Baluch, Bedouin, nor Apache, has developed the marauding instinct to a higher degree than have the warlike Kurd tribes."

Make Religion Fit Circumstances

Whether living in Turkey, Persia, or the new state of Iraq, the Kurds are Mohammedans. But they are not as serious or fanatical in religious matters as the Arabs and the Turks. Nominally they belong to the Shiah sect of Mohammedans. Some of them, however, are very cosmopolitan in their religious observances, and when away from home readily join in prayers in either a Shiah or Sunni mosque. They have even been known, when in Armenian villages, to join in the Christian service of the Armenian church, kneeling and bowing with the congregation.

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THE SOURCE OF THE PANACEA FOR LEPROSY

A fruiting branch of a genuine chaulmoogra-oil tree pinned against the trunk of the tree itself. Recently a modern miracle of healing was accomplished when a group of lepers were discharged as "cured," meaning the disease was arrested, from the United States leprosarium in Louisiana. The man who located this tree was Joseph F. Rock, later leader of the National Geographic Society's expedition to Yunnan (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Athos: At Last Invaded by Women

ONE OF the last strongholds of men was invaded recently when two young French girl explorers, sailing their own skiff, landed on the monastery peninsula of Athos, Greece. What Lhasa, sacred city of Tibet, has been to westerners, a forbidden city, Athos was to womankind. The French girls stopped at Athos in the course of a tour of the islands of the Aegean Sea.

On the 200-odd square miles of this rough peninsula which lacks little of being an island, it has been unlawful since 1045 for a woman to set foot. Moreover, so far is sex discrimination extended that female domestic animals are barred! Even the eggs and milk that the good monks of Athos eat and drink must come, therefore, from farms safely across the border of the strange monastic republic that Athos harbors.

Preserve Treasures of Byzantium

The entire peninsula is given up to the monasteries of which there are twenty, mostly on the slopes or cliffs of Mt. Athos, the 6,350-foot promontory that rises near the outer end of the headland. There are one or more monasteries for each of the countries, or in some cases the communities that accept the Greek rite—Greece, Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Anatolia, Constantinople and many others. The religious communities of Mt. Athos were the pampered children of Byzantium in its later days, and great wealth was showered on them by the emperors, a number of whom sojourned there. The monasteries have to-day one of the richest collections of the illuminated manuscripts, statues, paintings, mosaics and other works of art produced in the heydey of that gilded Eastern Rome.

The monks of Mt. Athos have traditions of the beginnings of their establishments as early as the days of Constantine the Great, about 300 A. D. But history tells of the foundation of the earliest of the present monasteries, that of Lavra, in 969. The latest was established in 1545, a century after the fall of Byzantium.

Republican Government for 850 Years

Athos is rough and heavily wooded, with many coves and indentations, but with few landing places. The monasteries are in every conceivable situation: some on gentle slopes near the sea, some on lofty crags overhanging the beating surf, and others inland on shoulders of the Sacred Mountain. All consist of walled spaces in which are churches, chapels, dwelling houses or dormitories, guest abodes, libraries, and in the case of the establishments where the monks do not cook their own food, kitchens.

The East has always been turbulent, and Mt. Athos knows its East; so all the enclosures are fortified. Around the monasteries are olive groves, vineyards and other fruit plantations, worked by the monks and the lay brothers who together make up practically the whole population of this strange region.

The government of Mt. Athos has been republican in form for more than 850 years—since 1060, six years before the Normans conquered England. Each monastery elects a representative who is sent to the centrally situated village of

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of Alaskan shores, in anticipation of aircraft flights to the pole and exploration of the largest untraversed area, Beaufort Sea, remaining on the face of the earth.

Secrets of Dying Tribes

Perhaps the most alluring of all The Society's explorations to-day are those which discover curious, remote peoples, often remnants of some long-forgotten chapter of human history. Joseph F. Rock and Frederick Wulsin, in different parts of China's west and north, encountered strange aboriginal tribes, fast disappearing, but still engaging in age-old customs and religious practices that soon would have been lost forever.

Even without his fascinating accounts of devil worship, pre-Buddhist religions, and ancient manuscripts of the flood story, Mr. Rock's investigations and pioneer studies in the remote province of Yunnan would have been invaluable to humankind because of the plants he brought back. The blight-resisting chestnut tree he discovered may be the means of restoring that valuable timber to our eastern seaboard area.

Charting a Great American Cave

This brief résumé by no means exhausts The Society's expeditions. One of its field parties discovered Machu Picchu, buried city of the ancient Incas in Peru, home of the white potato and Indian corn, and the location of hanging gardens that surpassed those of ancient Babylon. Another is now uncovering an American Pompeii in Mexico, where tangible evidence of a civilization 7,000 years ago may be found. Still another has penetrated and explored the vast caverns near Carlsbad, New Mexico, which already have revealed unrivaled beauties and great chambers of startling magnificence.

Bulletin No. 2, April 6, 1925.

Do You Wish Your Bulletins Continued?

Teachers who wish their Bulletins continued should mail their requests promptly. Back copies for completing files cannot always be supplied. If your subscription expires with an April issue it is suggested that renewal be made now:

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Fashion in Colors for Oceans

THE MUCH-TRAVELED Atlantic will soon put on its usual color show for the summer tourists. It is exhibiting a decided preference for blue, with soft foamy white ruffles. Sometimes it is wearing sage greens, deep indigo, or royal purple.

Globe trotters will find the Mediterranean and the Caribbean tricked out in sapphire blue, the Red Sea in varying shades of henna, the Yellow Sea in biege and tan, the shallows of the Gulf of Mexico in a soft turquoise, and the Antarctic in olive green.

In order to put on such a pleasing display of shade and hue, the seas have summoned to their aid many and varied hosts, notable among which are warmth and cold, sunlight and shadow, sand, silt, and possibly volcanic dust, salt, lime, and various and sundry kinds of diatoms and algae.

Why the Ocean Is Blue

Absolutely pure water is a clear blue color because the blue rays of sunlight are not absorbed by the water as the red rays are. Thus the open ocean seems intensely blue. Distilled water has a greenish cast due to the impurities which still remain after the distillation. This makes it clear why the shallow water in bays and estuaries is green or yellowish green. One explanation of the olive-green of the ocean in the vicinity of the South Pole is that it contains enormous quantities of diatoms in suspension.

Sometimes the ocean wears a gray gown, but that usually happens when the clouds shut out the sunlight and then in respect for the grim aspect of the frowning skies it subdues the tones of its garment.

Two factors contribute largely to the blueness of the Mediterranean; there are few large rivers, which ordinarily carry enormous quantities of soil, flowing into it, and there is a constant stream of salty water pouring into it from the Atlantic Ocean through the Strait of Gibraltar. It is said by some oceanographers that the blue of sea water bears a direct ratio to its saltiness. As an example of this the band of tropical waters extending about thirty degrees on each side of the Equator, where there is tremendous evaporation under a blazing sun, is cited. It is true that these waters are very salty and an exquisite azure in color. The Arctic and Antarctic waters, which are cold and less salt, are vivid green.

Algae Make the Red Sea Blush

The Yellow Sea derives its golden tints from the sediment brought to it by the Yellow River and several other streams rising near the desert areas in western China. Scientists also believe that the billions of minute living organisms found in its waters helped give it is name.

In January, 1909, a peculiar condition was observed in the Atlantic Ocean. Running parallel with the warm, clear, blue waters of the Gulf Stream from Cape Florida to Cape Hatteras, there was a yellow river three miles wide. It lasted for a few weeks and then faded away into the surrounding ocean. Some

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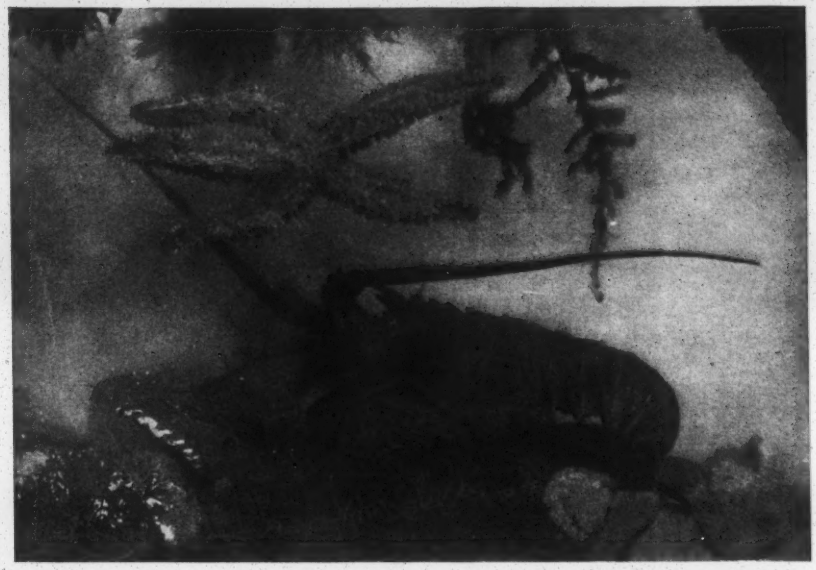
Karyes, which is the capital. There the delegate occupies a dwelling owned by his abbey and constituting a sort of "embassy" building.

The twenty representatives sit as the Most Blessed Assembly of the Sacred Mount, a parliament more venerable than that of London, if that body be dated from the recognition of the elective principle. The executive power of Mt. Athos is a body of five monks chosen by the monasteries voting in groups of four. A quarter of the great seal of the "republic" is kept in the custody of each one of four of the executives and the fifth, the secretary, carries a handle which locks the fragments properly together.

Rang Only Bells in Turkey

Until the Balkan Wars which preceded the World War, Mt. Athos was in Turkish territory. But ever since the advent of the Turks in Europe, the community has been privileged. It submitted to the Sultan Murad II even before the fall of Byzantium, and was dealt with leniently, though required to pay tribute. The monasteries of Athos for a long time had the only bells permitted to ring in the whole Turkish Empire, for bells are an abomination to the Moslem. But the use of bells was limited by the Turks, and the monks fell into the habit of pounding a suspended board instead. In many of the Mt. Athos monasteries it is still the dull thumps and whacks of such a bell-substitute that call the monks to rise in the mornings and to gather for religious services.

Bulletin No. 3, April 6, 1925.



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STARFISH AND CRAYFISH PORTRAIT IN CLEAR OCEAN WATER

Bermuda, on the Atlantic Coast, and Santa Catalina island, on the Pacific Coast, are famous for their submarine gardens. So crystal clear is the sea water that sea life may not only be viewed from a glass-bottomed boat but may be photographed (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Haifa: Progressive Port of Palestine

IN THE movement to make Palestine a Jewish homeland whose factories and fields are populated by members of the race returned from other lands, the new city, Tel-a-Viv, with a population of 25,000, takes the lead, but Haifa follows closely.

Haifa is apt to escape attention on a coast dotted with such names as Tyre and Sidon and Gaza and Jaffa. Its future, though, may not be as modestly obscure as its past, for the British Government is constructing harbor works at Haifa which will enable it to care for the whole English Mediterranean fleet.

The paradox of Haifa is that it is geographically associated with Mount Carmel and the great plain of Esdraelon, the Armageddon of Bible times; but historically it is linked closer to Berlin, Buffalo, N. Y., and the Crusades.

Biblical History All Around

One may stand upon the slopes of Mount Carmel where it almost achieves being a promontory at the Bay of Acre and look south toward Caesarea, built by Herod and named for Caesar, where Peter preached and Paul was jailed. Or he may turn north toward Tyre, proud port of Phoenicia. In the nearer foreground will be the ruins of Athlit, with the remains of a castle built by the Knights Templar, and the Yorktown of a two-century Holy War.

Carmel itself, he will recall, was Solomon's simile when he said of a bride "Thine head upon thee is like Carmel." And upon Carmel Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal, built an altar upon which "the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice."

At his feet lies Haifa, which leaps forward to the Middle Ages, because it was taken by Tancred during the Crusades. Even medieval events are but memories there. The present town of about 10,000 souls is modern. It received an impetus when William, then Emperor of Germany, visited the city in 1898, went the rounds of German schools and soap factories, ordered tablets to be erected to remember him by, and granted a subsidy on account of the flourishing German colony there.

Opposite Last Crusader Stronghold

The German colony had its inception in the German Templars, a religious community formed at Wurtemberg, which founded its first colony at Haifa in 1868, and so flourished that later it acquired a section of the town which was selected and aided by a citizen of Buffalo, N. Y. Originally the Templars had a vision of a Kingdom of God on this earth, which must fructify in the Old Testament "Land of Promise," and regenerate Europe. Later other Germans than members of this sect were admitted, and after the Kaiser's visit the purpose became avowedly to promote German interests.

Haifa lies on the southern and sheltered side of the wide-mouthed Bay of Acre. The town of Acre, last stronghold of the Crusaders, is on the north side of the bay. The most picturesque way to reach Acre from Haifa is to take one of the vehicles drawn by horses, three abreast, which traverse the inner curved shores of the bay. Here the sand is so hard and hot that the horses

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upheaval on the face of the deep, probably of volcanic origin, had evidently set this yellow stream in motion.

The dull reddish tint of the Red Sea is imparted to it by millions of microscopic algae. A host of the minute *Dinoflagellata* sometimes will redden the ocean for miles.

The lovely blue of the waters surrounding the coral islands of the South Seas, which have long been famous in song and story, is said to be due to the calcium carbonate which is held in solution.

California's Mysterious Black Ocean

The degree of penetration of light into water is a contributing factor in the color of various bodies of water. The Saguenay River, a tributary of the St. Lawrence from the north, is sombre and impressive because its waters seem almost black. It winds through high hills which shut out the light and its bed is cut 600 feet deeper than that of the river into which it flows.

In 1901, the sea off the California coast turned almost black, the waters of Santa Cruz Bay becoming particularly inky, but no satisfactory explanation has ever been offered of the occurrence.

Bulletin No. 4, April 6, 1925.

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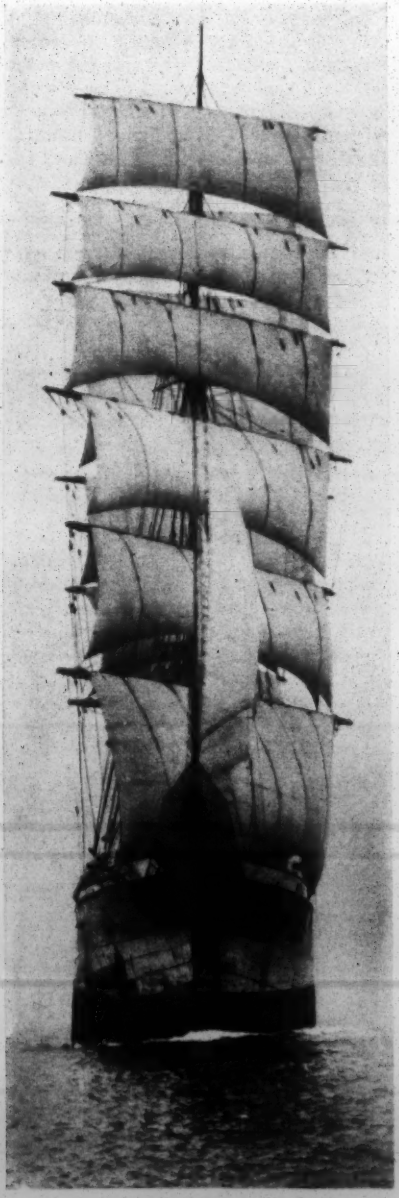
MASTER OF THE KITCHEN IN MAN'S DOMAIN, MT. ATHOS, GREECE

Octopus stew is a favorite dish in the monasteries. That toothsome creature, being bloodless, escapes the ban which bars fish and flesh, not to mention eggs, milk, butter, and oil (see Bulletin No. 3).



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AN ALLY OF GEOGRAPHY MILITANT

The four-masted, square-rigged *Nereos* under full sail. "The unchangeable sea preserves the memory of things accomplished by wisdom and daring among its restless waves." (See article by Joseph Conrad on "Geography and Some Explorers" in *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1924.)

walk knee deep in the water practically the entire distance, thus making the journey a continuous ford, which has a special delight for children.

Good Rail Connections

The Bay of Acre is the last indentation above Egypt. Even after Haifa was included within the region of the British mandatory over Palestine it was feared that its improvement would benefit Syria more than Palestine. There was talk of making an artificial harbor at Jaffa, a project which would have entailed great engineering difficulties. Haifa had a natural harbor which demanded the construction of breakwaters, and its railway connections with Damascus and Aleppo on the north, and with Hejaz, on the south, gave it added advantage.

Completion of the harbor project at Haifa will mark the passing of one picturesque feature—the boatmen. A typical member of this craft is described by a writer to the National Geographic Society as follows:

Haifa's Rowing Chorus

"Out there in Haifa is a boatman who is getting rich on account of the sea breeze that springs up each evening in the broad Bay of Acre. He is a sturdy, good-looking fellow, with his moustaches neatly waxed and his red tarboosh worn at a rakish angle, like the cap of a certain British admiral. His baggy Turkish trousers are held up by a broad sash of the finest silk and his heelless slippers, with their upturned points, are of the softest leather. His stroke oarsman has strangely bent toes where his naked foot braces against the seat for the thrust of the boom-like oar, and with a moving voice he leads a most dramatic rowing chorus, with Neptune's choir for antiphonal effects."